

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are requested.

1. Discussion of Amendments

By way of the amendment instructions above, an amended title more commensurate with the claimed subject matter has been presented.

In addition, the original claims 1-20 have been cancelled in favor of new claims 21-41 which are based principally on the originally filed claims but have been drafted so as to address the Examiner's rejections under 35 USC §112, second paragraph. In this regard, claims 21-36 are based on prior claims 1-16. Original claim 19 has been split and now appears as new claims 37 and 38. Original claim 20 corresponds substantively to new claim 30, while new claims 40 and 41 correspond substantively to original method claims 4 and 5, but are presented as apparatus terminology.

Thus, following entry of this amendment, claims 21-41 will remain pending herein for which favorable reconsideration and allowance are requested.

2. Response to 35 USC §112 Rejection

New claims 21-41 are believed to comply with the statutory requirements of 35 USC §112, second paragraph. As such, withdrawal of the rejection advanced against the prior claims 1-20 on such a basis is in order.

3. Response to 35 USC §102(b) Rejection

Archer et al (USP 4,996,951) was applied against claims 1-20 as allegedly anticipating the same under 35 USC §102(b). Applicants suggest that Archer et al is inappropriate as a reference against claims 21-41 now pending herein.

In this regard, while it is true that Archer et al discloses a method for soot blowing automation/optimization in boiler operations, it is really at this juncture that any perceived similarities between the present invention and Archer et al cease. Specifically, Archer et al does not disclose or suggest a method of cleaning heat exchange surfaces of a heat exchange system as defined in new claim 21. That is, Archer et al does not disclose or suggest such a method which comprises the steps of:

- (a) leading an exhaust gas stream by the heat exchange surfaces;
- (b) cleaning sequentially different parts of the heat exchange surfaces with cleaning equipment having an operation parameter status, wherein particles are released from the parts being cleaned, and the released particles are entrained with the exhaust gas stream;
- (c) measuring the amount and/or type of the released particles entrained with the exhaust gas stream so as to create particle measurement data, and
- (d) linking together and storing into an electronic memory the location information of the parts of the heat exchange surfaces being cleaned and the particle measurement data created during the cleaning so as to create information of the fouling on the heat exchange surfaces as a function of the location of the heat exchange surfaces.

And, Archer et al most certainly does not disclose or suggest a system for cleaning heat exchange surfaces of a heat exchange system as defined in pending independent claim 37. Specifically, Archer does not disclose or suggest a system which comprises:

cleaning equipment arranged to sequentially clean different parts of the heat exchange surfaces, so as to release particles from the cleaned parts of the heat exchange surfaces;
means for measuring the amount and/or type of released particles in the exhaust gas stream so as to create particle measurement data;
means for linking together and storing in an electronic memory the location information of the parts of the heat exchange surface being cleaned and the particle measurement data created during the cleaning of said parts so as to create information of the fouling on the heat exchange surfaces.

Instead of measuring the amount and/or type of the released particles ***entrained with the exhaust gas stream*** so as to create particle measurement data, for example, Archer et al teach a system which determines the time period in which a solid combustion product layer may be removed in dependence upon first determining an increase in cost of heat energy transferred to the heated medium due to such solid combustion product layer. Thus, clearly Archer et al cannot anticipate the presently claimed invention. Nor can Archer et al render obvious the present invention since no suggestion or contemplation of the claimed method can be discerned therein.

Withdrawal of the rejection advanced under 35 USC §102(b) and early passage of this application to allowance are therefore in order.

ROSIN
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4. Fee Authorization

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, in the fee(s) filed, or asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Account No. 14-1140.

Respectfully submitted,

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